

**COLUMBIA RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP
MEETING NO. 502**

1. ATTENDANCE

The following met at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 13, 2000, in Rm 118, Custom House, Portland, OR.

Members or Alternates Present

Nancy Stephan, Bonneville Power Admin, Chair
Ted Day, US Bureau of Reclamation
Roger Ross, Corps of Eng-NWD-NP
Walter Boyle, Federal Energy Regulatory Comm
Tom Fero, National Weather Svc-RFC
Dan Moore, Nat'l Resources Conservation Svc
Doug McChesney, WA Dept Ecology
Roger Ross, Corps of Eng-NWD-NP

Others Present

Dusica Jevremovic, Fish Passage Center
Nengjin Liu, Idaho Power Co
Tim Heizenrader, Enron
Sheila Strachan, Nat'l Resources Conservation Svc
Jolyne Lea, Nat'l Resources Conservation Svc
Jon Lea, Nat'l Resources Conservation Svc
Cathy Hlebechuk, Corps of Eng-NWD-NP
Clare Perry, Corps of Eng-NWD-NP

Members Not Present or Represented

----, US Geological Survey - Portland
----, Nat'l Marine Fisheries Svc
Jack Gakstatter, US Environ'l Protection Agy
Bruce McCammon, US Forest Service
Marvin Yoshinaka, US Fish and Wildlife Svc
----, Bureau of Land Management
Barry Norris, Oregon Dept of Water Res
Mike Turnipseed, Nevada State Engineer
Gordon Fassett, Wyoming State Engineer
Jack Stults, Montana Dept of Nat'l Res/Cons

2. WEATHER SUMMARY

October weather had temperatures and precipitation near normal, with rainfall varying from 25-173% of normal, with the Upper Snake the driest and the Flathead Basin the wettest (for their current report see their web site at http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/r_fcst). In November the temperatures rose to well above normal (+5.7°F) and the rainfall continued scattered in most sub-basins (varying from 35% of normal in the Owyhee to a high of 157% in the Kootenai). In December the weather continued warm (averaging 4.4°F above normal) and very dry (generally 38-127% of normal).

December precipitation was 90% of normal for the Columbia River above Grand Coulee; 93% of normal for the Snake Basin above Ice Harbor; and 93% for the basin above The Dalles. The Willamette Valley averaged 83% while the Rogue averaged 54%. **Seasonal** - water year-to-date total (Oct-Dec) - precipitation was 120% of normal for the Columbia River above Grand Coulee; 77% of normal for the Snake Basin above Ice Harbor; and 102% for the basin above The Dalles. The Willamette Valley averaged 97% while the Rogue averaged 75%.

3. STREAMFLOW

During October, river flows in the Northwest ranged from a low of 31% of normal for the Wilson River on the northern Oregon coast to highs of 180% of normal for the Bruneau River in southwestern Idaho, November flows ranged from a low of 51% of normal for the Umpqua River on the southern Oregon coast to highs of 268% of normal for the Peshastin River in the east Washington Cascades, and December flows from 41% of normal for the Rogue River in southern Oregon coast to 254% on the Kettle River in northeastern Washington ([Encl 1](#)).

The water year mean monthly streamflows to date (Oct-Dec) vary from a low of near half of normal on the

southwest Oregon coast to nearly twice normal on the east side of the northern Washington Cascades.

4. **SWSI**

The Surface Water Supply Indices (SWSI) for Oregon for the first three months of the water year were near normal but trending downward. The current month's data is shown at <http://crystal.or.nrcs.usda.gov/snows-surveys/>.

5. **RUNOFF VOLUME FORECAST SUMMARY**

The NWRFC published a summary of the runoff volume forecasts for January 1 on their web site at http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/water_supply/2000/January/toc.shtml. Tom Fero said the observed flows, adjusted for upstream reservoir storage, ranged from a low of 56% of normal for the Owyhee Basin to a high of 115% on the Arrow Lakes basin of southern British Columbia. The Columbia River at The Dalles (Jan-Jul) forecast volume runoff was 109.0 maf (103%), the Columbia River at Grand Coulee was (Jan-Jul) 69.7 maf (110%), the Snake River at Lower Granite was (Jan-Jul) 27.4 maf (92%), and the Libby inflow (Apr-Sep) was 7.73 maf (114%).

The Corps' forecasts for Libby and Dworshak are (Jan-Jul) 6.85 maf (108%) and (Apr-Jul) 2.97 maf (100%), respectively. Details of the Corps' forecasts are found at <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/report/inflow.htm>.

6. **FLOOD CONTROL REQUIREMENTS**

The calculated flood control requirements for this year, based on the December 31 hydrologic conditions, were described by Bruce Glabau and will be found in <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/report/colsum.htm>.

7. **RESERVOIR OPERATION**

Reclamation irrigation reservoirs were drafted for irrigation last year and now are below their required flood control elevation and are filling, according to Ted Day. The Crooked Basin projects may not refill this year due to low snowpack.

Active content available on December 31 at **Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake** (behind **Grand Coulee Dam**) was 3,806,820 af–73% of capacity and **Hungry Horse** was 2,456,760 af–82% of capacity. Additional project information will be found in [Enclosure 2](#) and on the USBR web site at: <http://www.pn.usbr.gov/hydromet/>.

The Corps of Engineers projects are being operated within typical limits as reported by Cathy Hlebechuk ([Enc 3](#)). **Libby** was drafting to meet flood control requirements. The **Albeni Falls** project was drafting to its flood control elevation of 2051.0 ft but recreational interests wanted the drafting to stop at 2053.0 ft. **Dworshak** was filling to bring the reservoir up to its minimum flood control level. The **Lower Snake Projects** were operated in their normal operating range. The **Willamette projects** were evacuating stored water from the Thanksgiving Day flood just in time to store runoff from a mid December flood. By January 1 all reservoirs were at or near minimum flood control storage.

Brownlee is currently being drafted toward its flood control requirement, according to Nengjin Liu.

8. **POWER OPERATIONS**

Despite the concern about the reliability of the power system in Y2K, there was only one incident and that had to do with vandalism. Nancy Stephan also stated that fall discharges exceeded the power demands.

9. **FISHERIES**

Dušica Jevremović reported that fisheries is awaiting the spring migration that begins in March. Additional fish-related activities can be found in <http://www.fpc.org>.

10. OTHER

Washington state has a good snowpack according to Doug McChesney. Oregon Gov. Kitzaber has proposed a four state committee to assume the oversight of the Columbia River system operation. Idaho and Montana have given their OK to this proposal but Washington Gov Locke said his state would decline to participate.

After more discussion of the topic of updating both the depletion flows and the 30-year averages, Nancy Stephen stated that BPA would send out CDs of the previous study for review of procedures in anticipation of updating these documents to include more recent data.

11. NEXT MEETINGS

The next scheduled meeting of the CRWGMG is at 9:30 a.m., April 13, 2000, with notification on the Corps' web site.

Roger L. Ross
Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Streamflow Summary
2. USBR Project Summary
3. COE Project Summary

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